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Lessons Learned from the Backyard Food Bank Model: A Case Study of Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province, Thailand

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Abstract—
"The Backyard Food Bank's Model" serves as a prototype for creating agricultural areas that produce safety food through a social movement approach. This initiative is driven by the community's Self-reliance and their awareness of the need to prepare for potential disasters. Currently, Chumphon Province has been currently experiencing drought.
The self-reliant community, also known as "self-reliant people," from the "Baan Noi Klang Pa Yai" learning center has worked together to design this space as a safe food production area, serving as a food bank for disaster victims. This social safety food bank can support up to 1,000 people and can deliver food to nearby communities within a two-day walking distance, covering a radius of approximately 2 to 10 kilometers. In normal times, when there are no disasters, this area will serve as a natural classroom and learning center.

Keywords : Backyard Food Bank, Chumphon Province, Community's Self-reliance

INTRODUCTION

The Backyard Food Bank's Model (BFBM) originated from the shared vision of participants in the "Self-reliance for the Nation" training program held at the PANNAR Sufficiency Economic and Agriculture Learning Center in Mu Si Sub-district, Pak Chong District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, as well as at the Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai Sufficiency Economic and Agriculture Learning Center in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province. After completing the training, the program organized a victory celebration that brought together Self-reliance for the Nation trainees from various generations. This event fostered connections and camaraderie among participants from different cohorts. The gathering was honored by the presence of Mr. Prawit Poomrawi and Miss Maytaya Poomrawi, which contributed to the team's sense of unity. During an informal discussion, Mr. Prawit Poomrawi expressed a pivotal idea that sparked the inception of the Backyard Food Bank's Model: ***"I want us to come together, support each other, and leave no one behind".***

II. OBJECTIVES

1.To examine the socio-economic characteristics of the Backyard Food Bank's Model area located on a 31-rai plot of land in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province.
2. To investigate the factors and conditions that influence the development of the Backyard Food Bank's Model in a 31-rai plot of land in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province, in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and New Theory.
3. To develop a prototype model for the Backyard Food Bank's Model area on a 31-rai plot of land in

Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study and Analysis of Relevant Concepts and Theories

The development of the Backyard Food Bank's Model area is characterized by its adherence to the principles of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the application of New Agricultural Theory. This approach is being implemented by individuals who have participated in the Self-reliance for the Nation project. The project draws on the knowledge and expertise from the Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai Sufficiency Economic and Agriculture Learning Center, under the guidance of Mr. Prawit Poomrawi, a well-regarded figure in natural farming practices. His methodology emphasizes Self-reliance at the plot or area level, and he acts as a mentor to the project participants, facilitating their learning and growth within the framework of sustainable agricultural practices.

3.2 Data Collection and Sampling

3.2.1 Data Collection Methods

1. Observation of activities and data collection:

- Conduct observations of activities within the classroom at the Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai Sufficiency Economic and Agriculture Learning Center.
- Record the instructional techniques employed by Mr. Prawit Poomrawi, noting how he engages with participants and the strategies he utilizes to impart knowledge[22].
- Highlight any local wisdom or traditional knowledge shared during the instruction that addresses agricultural problems faced by participants.
- Research team members will document their observations by taking detailed notes, capturing photographs, and recording videos of the sessions.
- Utilize the collected data to analyze and process knowledge, which will then be disseminated online to individuals interested in the activities and learning experiences provided by the center.

2. In-depth interviews:

- Selection of Key Informants:

  Identify and select key informants who play a significant role in driving the project forward.

- Interview Criteria:

o Interview individuals interested in participating in the Backyard Food Bank's Model activities (members of the Self-reliance for the Nation project) who are keen to learn about new agricultural practices and replicate them in their own communities.

o Interview participants actively involved in organizing activities at Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai as part of the Self-reliance for the Nation project.

o Activities are held on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month and are open to all members, including those from the Sufficiency Economic and Agriculture Learning Center.

o Participants are encouraged to bring friends, family, or relatives to join the activities.

o Conduct interviews with participants who have consistently engaged in Ban Noi Klang Paa Yai activities, as this will provide valuable insights into the activities and the resulting changes in the community.

- Interviews with Key Figures:

o Interview representatives involved in driving the development of the Backyard Food Bank's Model, including:

1. Members of the Mitr Facebook Page or the Mitr Facebook Page's committee.

2. Mr. Prawit Poomrawi or a representative from Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai, conducting interviews at least twice:

During the initial phase (July-August 2023)

During the final phase (January-February 2024)

- Data Collection Timeline:

Collect data on activity days from April 2023 to February 2024, documenting participant

engagement each month.

o The sample will consist of participants at each month's activities, including both the general public and members of the Self-reliance for the Nation group.

3.2.2 Sampling

- Utilize purposive sampling to select interviewees.
- The selection criteria will be based on the descriptions provided above.
- Participants will also complete a questionnaire to evaluate social impact and Social Return on Investment (SROI).

3.2.3 Stakeholder Analysis

1. Internal Stakeholders:

- Stakeholders within the organization, referred to as direct stakeholders.
- Individuals who are engaged with the organization in any capacity.
- Those who are directly involved in the Backyard Food Bank's Model and will experience its benefits or drawbacks.
- Individuals who play a key role in the project's success.
- This group includes members of the Mitr Facebook Page, Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai, and the Self-reliance for the Nation's Foundation.

2. External Stakeholders:

- Stakeholders outside the organization, referred to as indirect stakeholders.
- External parties who are indirectly affected by the project.
- This group includes the PBL-R Thailand research team, Burmese migrant workers living in Thailand, network partners, customers, competitors, and surrounding communities.
- Stakeholders from neighboring communities that are likely to be influenced by the project.
- While no negative environmental or other impacts on the community are anticipated, there is an expectation of job creation and enhanced community support[17].

3. Develop social impact and SROI analysis tools:

- In-Depth Interviews
  - o Utilize the 6-step characteristic indicator interview form (refer to Appendix A) as the foundation, while incorporating additional questions relevant to the activities conducted each month.
  - o These interviews will allow participants to illustrate the connections to the development of the Backyard Food Bank's Model in terms of process and knowledge management.
- Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Tools (Under Development)[6]
  - o Implement the SIA 9-step ladder framework to effectively evaluate the activities undertaken.
- Social Return on Investment (SROI) Analysis
  - o The analysis will focus on three main stakeholder groups:
    - Primary activity organizers, including the Mitr Facebook Page, Baan Noi Klang Paa Yai, and the Self-reliance for the Nation's Foundation
    - Participants engaged in the Backyard Food Bank's Model project.
    - Communities in the vicinity that may be affected by the project.

3.3 Monitoring Spatial and Socio-Cultural Changes

- Monthly observations, interviews, and semi-structured discussions:
  - o Monitor changes in the spatial environment and socio-cultural dynamics.
  - o Observe activities, learning processes, and transformations occurring within the area.
  - o Conduct interviews with key informants and participants to gather insights.

3.4 Data Analysis, Activity and Learning Process Analysis, and Social Impact Analysis

- Data analysis:
  - o Organize the data into three distinct categories:
    - Document Data: Gathered from relevant documents and records.
    - Observation Data: Collected through direct observations of activities and processes.
    - In-Depth Interview Data: Derived from interviews with key informants and participants, including data related to Social Return on Investment (SROI)[4].

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1. Socio-economic Background of the Study Area

4.1.1 Historical Background of Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province

According to local elders, hundreds of years ago, a group of people settled near the Lang Suan River, in a deep section known as "Wang," which translates to "pool" or "bend." This area was rich in a type of tree called "Tako" (Hopea odorata), characterized by its spiny fruits. The dense canopy of these trees provided ample shade, making it a favored resting spot for boatmen to moor their vessels. This convenience ultimately led to the establishment of a community and a marketplace where locals and passing boatmen could exchange goods. The community became known as "Wang Kho" or "Talad Wang Tako" (Wang Tako Market), named after its distinctive features and the surrounding trees. Over time, the pronunciation evolved to "Wang Tako," which is the name still used today[10].

Wang Tako is a sub-district located in Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province, covering an area of 125.47 square kilometers. The topography of the sub-district is a blend of plains, hills, and mountains. It comprises 13 villages, 1,674 households, and a population of 6,659 people, with a nearly equal distribution of men and women.

The majority of residents in Wang Tako are engaged in agriculture, cultivating fruits such as mangosteen, bananas, oil palm, and rubber. Animal husbandry is also prevalent. The sub-district enjoys a relatively strong economy and benefits from abundant water sources, including streams, ponds, and marshes[7].

4.1.2 Wang Tako Before Implementing the Self-Reliant Community Life Plan

Before the implementation of the Self-Reliant Community Life Plan, the once-abundant mixed orchards that provided for the community had diminished, forcing residents to rely heavily on market purchases. Over time, even home-cooked meals began to be replaced by takeout options.

The transition to monoculture farming, facilitated by government loans, resulted in increased household debt and a greater reliance on external sources for both capital and daily expenses. The strong social support and mutual aid that once defined the community had weakened, leading to a growing sense of alienation and a loss of identity among residents.

4.1.3 Rediscovering the Identity of Wang Tako People

Recognizing these changes, some community leaders attempted to implement the Self-Reliant Community Life Plan in 2009, but their efforts met with limited success. It wasn't until the concept was reintroduced to Mr. Prawit Bhumirawee, the sub-district headman of Wang Tako, and Mr. Somchai Dungsawan, the president of the tambon administration organization (TAO), along with TAO board members and village headmen, that it gained traction. These leaders fully embraced the idea and began sharing it with other community leaders and residents.

Before the implementation of the Self-Reliant Community Life Plan in Wang Tako, a variety of community activities had already been organized, including anti-drug campaigns that aligned with government policies at the time. The success of these anti-drug initiatives led to the formation of a group known as the "White Shirt Group," which played a crucial role in driving the implementation of the Self-Reliant Community Life Plan. Following their decisive victory against drug abuse in April 2003, the group remained committed to ongoing community development efforts.

A. Social Impact Pathway of the Project

This paper presents the social impact pathway of a project aimed at fostering a sustainable and resilient community. The project encompasses a variety of activities, including designing community spaces, planning an integrated water system, and constructing an earthen classroom. Expected outcomes include the development of stronger networks[1], improved mental health[11], a more livable community with access to safe food sources, enhanced learning opportunities, and a sense of pride among participants[15]. Overall, the project is anticipated to have positive effects on social, economic, health, and environmental dimensions[8].

The project's social impact pathway underscores the potential for meaningful change within the community. The activities are specifically designed to address the community's needs and contribute to its overall well-being. The anticipated outcomes and impacts align closely with the project's goals and

objectives[9] (Table 1).

Table 1. The social impact pathway of the project

Input	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
1. People - Project initiators - Project participants, - Community residents 2. Project Budget	1. Designing the space 2. Planning an integrated water system 3. Constructing an earthen classroom	1. Water source 2. Fruits and vegetables 3. 31 Rais of food production area 4. Solar oven	1. Increased networks Stronger relationships 2. Improved mental health 3. More livable community with safe food sources 4. Enhanced learning opportunities 5. Increased knowledge and pride	1. Social: - Increased access to agricultural knowledge - Sustainable food production model - Potential shelter for marginalized individuals - Model for land transformation 2. Economic: - Affordable and safe food sources - Increased income for local businesses 3. Health: - Improved nutrition and well-being - Positive mental health outcomes 4. Environmental: - Increased green spaces - Dust mitigation measures

Source: From the survey

Based on the social impact pathway, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Continue to monitor and evaluate the project's social impacts to ensure that they align with the anticipated outcomes[23].
- Document and share the project's successes with other communities interested in replicating this model.
- Advocate for policies that promote sustainable and resilient community development[3].

B. General Information of Stakeholders

The collected data revealed that the majority of respondents are female, comprising 57.50% of the sample. Respondents aged 31-40 and those aged 41-50 each represent 30.00% of the total. In terms of marital status, 60.00% of respondents are married. Regarding educational attainment, 60.00% have completed a bachelor's degree. Income levels between 10,000 to 20,000 baht account for 45.00% of respondents. The professions among the participants include a variety of roles, such as trading and homemaking, collectively representing 42.50% of the sample.

C. Project Cost Information

Based on interviews and inquiries regarding project costs, it was determined that all the expenses reported by the initiators were variable costs. The initial operational cost is 1,352,000 baht, with the majority of the expenses allocated to excavation work.

D. Benefits

The study of benefits arising from the Backyard Food Bank's Model revealed that the project has not yet generated returns, as it has only been operational for seven months. Consequently, there are currently no

returns from the project. Nonetheless, researchers have projected future benefits in the following areas:

1. Benefits from Trees
2. Benefits from the Water Management System
3. Benefits from Product Processing
4. Base Case Scenario Analysis

The stakeholder analysis of the "Self-reliance Model for the Nation (The Backyard Food Bank's Model in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province)" project categorizes stakeholders into three groups:

1. Project Initiators
2. Project Participants
3. Community Members/Residents from Neighboring Communities

The analysis involved conducting interviews with representatives from these stakeholder groups. Below are the details and results of the stakeholder interviews:

E. Stakeholder Interviews

From the interviewing process conducted with stakeholders regarding The Backyard Food Bank's Model in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province" 's project, the research team gained valuable insights into the actual outcomes from the perspectives of each stakeholder group involved in the project. This includes an examination of the impact of Deadweight (development baseline), Attribution (factors contributing to success), and Drop-off (decline rate of benefits) across all stakeholder groups[18].

In this study, stakeholders were interviewed three times: twice in Ban Noi, Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province, and once in Sa Kaeo Province. A total of 40 stakeholders from the three groups were interviewed (as shown in Table 5). The objective of these interviews was to understand the nature of project activities, the changes that resulted, and to collect data regarding Deadweight, Attribution, and Drop-off.

The data collected on Deadweight, Attribution, and Drop-off provides the following insights:

1. Review of Changes and Outcomes for Each Stakeholder Group: The changes and outcomes experienced by each stakeholder group are reviewed in detail.

2. Potential Outcomes Without Project Implementation: An analysis was conducted to determine whether the observed changes or outcomes would have occurred independently of the project's implementation (The Backyard Food Bank's Model in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province). Stakeholders assessed and indicated the percentage (Deadweight) of changes that would have occurred without the project's influence.

3. Stakeholder Opinions on the Project's Role: Stakeholders shared their opinions on the project's role in fostering these changes and specified the proportion of changes they attribute directly to the project (Attribution).

4. Analysis of Benefits from the Project: Stakeholders evaluated the benefits arising from the Backyard Food Bank's Model and specified the period over which these benefits are expected to be realized (Benefit Period). Additionally, they provided insights into the anticipated rate at which these benefits may decline over time (Drop-off)[20].

F. Results of Social Return on Investment (SROI) Analysis

The Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis for the project "The Backyard Food Bank's Model in Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province" was conducted using a total budget of 1,352,000 THB. The SROI analysis, performed by the researchers, assesses the benefits over two distinct periods:

1.Net Present Value of Benefits: This evaluation determines the current value of net benefits generated by the project.

2.Net Value of Benefits after 10 Years (By 2032): This projection estimates the net value of benefits ten years following the project's initiation (Ex-Ante Evaluation).

3.Value of Benefits from Knowledge Dissemination (Spillover Effect): This component evaluates the value derived from the dissemination of knowledge to other areas[2].

The calculation of the net benefit value and the overall Social Return on Investment (SROI) is detailed in the following Table 2.

Table 2. Social Impact from this research

Social Impact	Net Present Value (NPV) (Bath)	Social Return on Investment (SROI)	Internal Rate of Return (IRR) (%)
1. Current Net Present Value	178,365.75	1.25	19
2. Net Present Value over 10 Years	5,148,000.00	3.59	29
3. Value of Knowledge Sharing to Other Areas	6,448,000.00	4.30	32

Source: Calculated from the data collected

From the table, it can be observed that the current Social Return on Investment (SROI) stands at 1.25 times, indicating that the investment is not yet highly valuable at this stage[16]. This is largely due to the fact that the project is still ongoing and has not yet been completed. The current returns are primarily individual benefits, such as increased knowledge and improved mental health; however, returns from the project's outputs, particularly food production, have not yet been realized[12].

If the project continues for another ten years, the SROI is projected to rise to 3.59 times by the year 2032, reflecting a significant long-term value of the investment[21].

Furthermore, if the knowledge generated by the project begins to spread to other areas (Spillover Effect) starting in 2024 and if this knowledge is further disseminated or adopted by other entities, the SROI is expected to increase to 4.30 times by 2032. This scenario emphasizes the potential for the project's knowledge to benefit the wider community in the future[5].

G. Distribution of Benefits from the Project

1. Current Distribution of Benefits

From the current evaluation of benefit distribution among stakeholders, it was found that 80% of the benefits are realized by project participants, while 20% are allocated to project initiators (as indicated in Figure 1). This distribution suggests that participants are the primary beneficiaries at this stage, as they gain increased knowledge from various activities and experience improved mental health, which they can apply to their daily lives. The wider community has not yet benefited significantly, as the project is still in progress, meaning they have not yet received any benefits from the initiative[13].

Upon evaluating the benefit distribution at the project's completion, it is projected that the majority of the benefits, 55%, will accrue to the local community and nearby areas. Following this, 35% of the benefits are expected to go to project participants, with 10% allocated to project initiators.

This anticipated distribution of benefits indicates that local and nearby communities will reap the greatest advantages. They will have access to safe, fresh, and more affordable food sources compared to the market[14]. Additionally, these communities will gain enhanced learning opportunities related to natural agriculture. Furthermore, the community's income may increase due to visitors or researchers coming to the project site, such as those involved in The Backyard Food Bank’s Model project.

H. Alignment of the Project with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 20-year National Strategy

The Backyard Food Bank's Model aims to establish a safe and sustainable food source for the community, serving as a refuge for those affected by food crises. The project involves the construction of shelters, water sources, and food supplies on a total area of 31 Rais of Wang Tako Sub-district, Lang Suan District, Chumphon Province.

Upon analyzing the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with The Backyard Food Bank's Model, the following SDGs are found to be consistent with the project [19]:

- SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 4: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Additionally, when considering The Backyard Food Bank's Model in conjunction with the 20-year National Strategy, it aligns with two strategic areas:

1. National Strategy on Creating Opportunities and Social Equality:

The project not only provides food sources and crisis shelters but also generates income for the community.

2. National Strategy on Creating Growth Based on Environmental Quality of Life:

The project establishes green spaces within the community and creates water sources for use during the dry season.

CONCLUSIONS

The project's social impact pathway clearly outlines the potential for positive change in the community. Its activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts are closely aligned with the project's goals and objectives. Consequently, the project is anticipated to significantly enhance the community's social, economic, health, and environmental well-being.

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